


Capitol
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

news

from
Hollywood

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The
King Cole Trio

EDITED BY DAVE DEXTER, JR.



Paramount's final musical short is being completed this month, and will feature Jimmy Dorsey's band, the Four Hits and a Miss, Blonde Virginia Maxey, Richard Webb and Bernadine Hayes.

The shorts, made in color, are produced by Harry Grey. The last one scheduled, titled "Catalina Interlude," means that no more shorts are planned on the Para lot until further notice.

Dorsey, meanwhile, has been playing occasional dates in the Los Angeles area with his recently-revamped band which lists Nappy Lamare, Ray Bauduc, Brad Gowans, Doc Rando, Arnold Ross, Charlie Teagarden, Conrad Gozzo and Larry Noble, vocalist, who replaced young Bill Lawrence last month. Jimmy has told friends that he is making plans to launch his own record company, probably sometime in 1949.

The pretty little isle of Santa Catalina in the blue Pacific, just off the California coastline, apparently will remain a dead spot for name bands again this year.

Back in the days before the war, the Casino and other entertainment boites on Catalina consistently featured the most expensive talent. Networks beamed top-calibre dance music across the mainland, and "Avalon" invariably enjoyed a modest revival each summer because it was aired so many times by the name bands and singers.

But no more. The war stopped it and the men who buy bands have never seen fit to resume the practice of paying big dough for big returns. Catalina is quiet these days. Tourists are finding no Grade A attractions. And Catalina, just to make it six, two and even, is finding fewer tourists.



Up On the Soapbox Again

WELL, it looks as if it's ready at last.

After nearly 10 years of preparation, Charles Delaunay's "New Hot Discography" will roll from the presses this month and become available, about July 15, in record and book shops from here to there and back again.

Most everyone who collects, borrows, trades and barter jazz discs already knows about the Delaunay book. It's loaded with information about the 5,000 musicians and singers who have appeared on some 20,000 sides from 1917 through 1947. It stacks up with 600 big (6 by 9) pages and reveals personnel, places and dates of recording, original master and record numbers and subsequent reissue and foreign release info. The "New Discography" also features a "discode" prefix number for every side listed, automatically indexing your wax collection, a handy little gimmick never before utilized by hoarders of precious tallowings.

Criterion Books, New York, is the publisher. The tick is for six. Don't miss it.

Four Dots And a Prayer

Sherrill Corwin is trying to get the L. A. Million Dollar Theater back in the black again and he's turning to bands and flesh acts, natch, to turn the trick. Diz Gillespie will follow Nellie Lutcher as the M. D. attraction—Gillespie opens on July 20—and Lionel Hampton comes in Aug. 3. Hamp will get half of every box-office buck for his bank account. But then, so will Nellie . . . Frank DeVol will wield the wand over the orchestra which Jack Smith will use when the Oxydol show moves to California in the fall . . . Reports in other papers that Andy Russell would play the title role in "The Cisco Kid" film series, for seven years, are untrue. Andy was ready to sign, but it fell through at the eleventh hour . . . All the bands here in California have softball teams. The rivalry is intense. But the happiest of all concerned are the druggists, who are selling more liniment and tape than ever before . . . Hoagy Carmichael sails for London July 30.

Here and There on the Hollywood Front

Paris and New York to the contrary, the "new look" for women has proved one of the most costly hoaxes in the history of dictated fashions. Scores of dance band singers already are busy lifting hemlines and ordering shorter skirts for fall engagements. Hollywood's film factories, too, have abandoned the short-lived "style" and it'll be apparent—goody—in the new pix coming out shortly . . . Sinatra is behaving, these days, as he hasn't behaved since he "hit" in 1943. Witness the lavish dinner he tossed for California jocks at Lucey's June 13—the same guys whose programs he ignored all those annums. Yeah, you meet the same guys on the way, etc. . . . Radio listeners prefer the homey, down-to-earth native jocks to the urbane, cultured voices of New York and Hollywood. That's why Pops Whiteman, Martin Block and Fred Robbins (he was transcribed) all fade from the networks this month—a noble experiment which, face it, flopped from every standpoint . . . And it's nice to report, as objectively as possible under the circumstances, that Lena Horne is the biggest thing in Hollywood right now as a result of her p. a. at Slapsy's. Maybe those MCM bigwigs (who also had Kay Thompson under contract for several years, then lost her when she developed her boyfriend with the freres Williams) will get off the dollar now and give Luscious Lena something more meaty than a brief spot in an Iturbi-Esther Williams turkey . . . Artie Shaw is preparing a return to music . . . And Kay Starr, who has Indian blood herself, reports that a certain tribe in Oklahoma has become so modern that it recently installed its own patent-medicine man, Emil Baffa leads the band.

CAPITAL NEWS
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Ciro's Looms For King Cole Trio Strip Opening Set For July 16

The yearly return of Nat "King" Cole to his headquarters in Los Angeles will be celebrated this month when Nat, Johnny Miller and Irving Ashby, who form the King Cole Trio, arrive on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood for a colorful July 16 opening at Ciro's.

Cole's vocal version of "Nature Boy" was released three months ago on a purple-label Capitol biscuit.

Nat will limit his Ciro's run to two weeks, however. His group is booked at the L. A. Million Dollar Theater for Aug. 10 for a week. Benny Carter's, leaping new band also will be seen at the theater the same week.

In route to the west coast, Cole plays the week of July 2-8 at the Capitol Theater in Salt Lake City. His trio spent all of June at the New York Paramount Theater in a brilliant presentation which also featured Kay Starr as an extra added attraction.

According to Mort Ruby, Cole's hard-punching road manager, Nat has been ringing up the biggest box-office grosses of his 10-year career since the



OFFERS PRIZE . . . Jo Stafford presents Dr. Wayland C. Hand, UCLA prof and editor of the American Folklore Society Journal, with a check for \$250 which establishes the Stafford Prize in American Folklore. The award, to be made annually by the society, will go to the college student who submits the best collection of folklore to the organization.

T-Bone East On New Tour

After a long and highly successful series of stands in California, T-Bone (T-Bone) Walker lit out for eastern pastures in late June, taking with him a small combo made up of some of the west coast's best jazzmen.

Walker, who shouts blues as he strums his electric guitar, scored his greatest success on records several seasons back with "Mean Old World" on Capitol record. It was waxed in 1942 and remains, six years later, one of the best-selling blues discs on the market.

Walker said that he would feature his newly-formed combo, Shifty Henry on bass, Bob "Snake" Sims as drummer, Freddie Simon (recently started with Marl Young's crew), on piano, Eddie Henry, trumpet, and Jim Wynn, clarinet. Wynn, in fact, rounded up the musicians and is serving as musical director.

New 'Scandals' Open

Hollywood's Florentine Gardens abandoned big name nitery acts last month and revived the Geo. White "Scandals" show. Emil Baffa leads the band.



with
PAUL WESTON
and his orchestra

JOHNNY MERCER

'THE FIRST BASEBALL GAME'
Bible stories in baseball lingo!

'SWEETIE PIE'
WITH THE PIED PIPERS
From the Columbia Picture
"Lulu Belle." That bouncing
rhythm so popular today!

Capitol
RECORD NO. 15096

Masters Up And At 'Em Again With New Band

Although Claude Thornhill, Eddy Duchin and Murray Arnold all juked their bands last month, Frankie Masters took heart and leaped back into the band biz with a new crew which played its initial job at Lakeside Park in Denver.

Masters, a suave Hoosier from Indiana and a veteran of 20 years in the dance band field, got together five brass, five reeds and three rhythm, dug out his vast library of standards and took off, from Los Angeles, for a June 25 opening in Denver. He and his wife, Singer Phyllis Miles, came to Los Angeles last winter, bought a house and will continue to call California home no matter where they go with his new combo. Art Michaud manages Frankie.

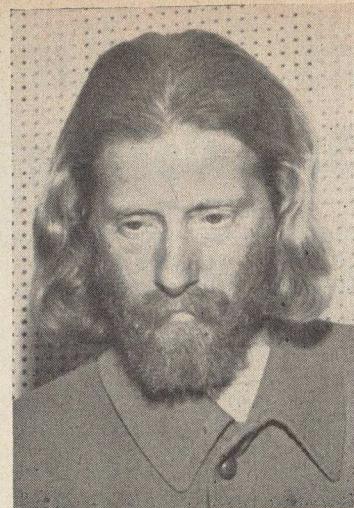
Ella Mae Morse Moves to Guam

Because her husband, a navy medico of high rank, has been transferred to the island of Guam in the South Pacific, Ella Mae Morse has been forced to voluntarily suspend her career as a singer indefinitely.

Ella Mae, a Texas blonde who first scored six years ago with "Cow-Cow Boogie," will make her home in officers' quarters on Guam with her husband.

Her latest record, released just last month, couples "Bombo B. Bailey" with a reissue of her earlier "A Little Further Down the Road a Piece." Both titles are in the boogie-woogie groove for which Morse is most noted.

In the event they are later transferred back to the mainland, Ella Mae would resume as a chirpee, she said.



NATURE DADDY ... Eden Ahbez soon will become a father. Mrs. Ahbez, with whom the "Nature Boy" figure lives under the stars, promises delivery of the youngster in the fall. This shot was made last month when Ahbez appeared with Bob Hope on NBC as a special Hope guest.

Metro Bids With 'Ball Game' Pic

Determined to shatter its long string of third-rate musicals on the screen, MGM will spare no effort in trying to make "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" a super-duper production with Gene Kelly, Esther Williams, Betty Garrett and Frank Sinatra sharing billing.

"Ball Game" just went into production at the big Culver City lot where Louis B. Mayer is the boss.

Larry Adler Touring

Harmonica virtuoso Larry Adler left his Hollywood home for a date at the Fairmont Hotel, San Fran, starting June 22. From there he goes to El Rancho Vegas, for two weeks commencing July 21.



EDEN AHBEZ, the personable and unorthodox Hollywood personage of "Nature Boy" renown, already tabbed as one of the most spectacular hits of the Frantic Forties, soon will be forced to change his way of life.

Ahbez, you see, and his wife have been living outdoors. They eat fruits and berries and sleep under the stars. But come next October, a young Ahbez will arrive. Hence the change.

Eden and Mrs. Ahbez agree that the baby will need a roof, and that a diet of nuts and grapefruit might not be conducive to good health. And so the meek, mild-mannered little man with the long hair is out searching for shelter for his wife and Nature Baby. Eden just returned from N. Y., where he appeared on "We, The People" and television shows.

Horace Heidt and his troupe back California after a long theater tour featuring amateur performers in various cities.

Buddy Rich, who filed a petition for bankruptcy last month in New York listing debts of about \$30,000, will open with his band at the Hollywood Palladium July 6 despite his financial difficulties. More details on Page 12.

Los Angeles Hotel Ambassador has signed Guy Lombardo for a return engagement at the Cocoanut Grove in early 1949 following the band's recent run. Lombardo was anxious to sign the contract, it was said, because he wanted to race his sleek "Tempo VI" speed boat on the California Salton Sea against N. Y. Waldorf-Astoria.

Probably the first big name band to be televised while actually working a job was Stan Kenton's, during its spectacular Hollywood Bowl concert June 12 under auspices of Gene Norman. Don Lee's KTSF did the honors. No advance notice of the telecast was made either by Kenton or Norman, however, for fear of disrupting ticket sales.

Capitol's James B. Conkling motors in from N. Y. with wife, the former Donna King of the King Sisters, after a stay of two months in Europe.



MONA FREEMAN is the gal—it really is a gal, the studio insists—and Billy De Wolfe is the comic in this scene from Paramount's "Isn't It Romantic?" pic. Songs are by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, and a chick by the name of Pearl Bailey allegedly steals the whole deal.

Times Critic Raves: 'MacRae Strikes Fire'

By EDWIN SCHALLERT
(Drama Editor, The Los Angeles Times)

WHEN "THE BIG PUNCH" was shown recently at a preview in Hollywood it was agreed that Gordon MacRae had struck fire as a new film personality.

Seen in the role of a young prize fighter, he manifested a handsome appearance and a surprising facility in handling his initial screen assignment for Warner Brothers, which has him under contract for motion pictures.

Now Making a Musical

The reaction to MacRae was unanimously favorable, even though he had not used his singing voice with which he had won attention on records, the radio and the stage. He had indeed come to be known as one of the best romantic-type warblers brought to the public in recent years, and now is compared with Bing Crosby, Perry Como, Frank Sinatra and Dick Haymes.

"I am rather glad, I had a chance to concentrate on a straight acting performance in my first picture," MacRae said. "After all, there can be plenty of opportunities in musicals. I am even enjoying an excellent one right now in 'Silver Lining,' the story of Marilyn Miller, which, I believe, should be one of the finest pictures of the type lately produced."

And Only 27, Too!

"I wouldn't want to try to develop in only one direction in pictures. Whatever satisfaction I have had thus far, apart from films, has always come through at least an attempt to diversify what I have done. Above all, I have been grateful that I have been permitted to accomplish this. I have been fortunate, in the kind attitude of others

who recognized whatever talent I possess."

In view of his success, MacRae at 27 years of age is one of the most unassuming younger stars. He has a simplicity, earnestness and honesty which will register importantly in his future performances.

MacRae appeared in "Three to Make Ready," Ray Bolger Revue, as a romantic juvenile soloist. Bolger is a star of "Silver Lining," it might be noted.

Horace Heidt discovered MacRae as a stage singer when he heard him singing to himself in the lounge at NBC studios. Similarly MacRae feels that he was lucky when William Orr, Warner Bros. talent scout, found him right for the films.

Father a Musician-Inventor

"The Big Punch," a medium budget-feature, served as an introduction. "Silver Lining" will bring decisive proof of MacRae's talents. He will be seen in that picture as Frank Carter, the husband of Marilyn Miller.

MacRae was born in East Orange, N. J. His father, William (Wee Willie) MacRae was a radio singer, an inventor and manufacturer. His mother, Mrs. Helen MacRae Osborne, was a concert pianist.

While MacRae was at the Millpond Playhouse, Roslyn, L. I., he met Sheila Margot Stephens, whom he married. They have three children, one born since their arrival in Hollywood.

There's nothing MacRae puts ahead of his family. Fame must fit right into domestic happiness.

Served in the AAF

The war took him away for a while (he was in the Army Air Forces), but that also had its compensations, because he considers the letters from his wife practically on a par with the writings of Christopher Morley, William Saroyan and Somerset Maugham.

TEX WILLIAMS and his
WESTERN CARAVAN

'WHO? ME?'

Here's Tex in his slickest yet, and hotter than "Smoke."

'FOOLISH TEARS'

Beautiful ballad, in traditional western style.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15113

WOO-GA-MA-CHOOGA'
About a funny word that has sentimental significance.

STREET OF DREAMS'
An old song with an intriguing new treatment.

ERNIE FELICE and his QUARTET

Capitol RECORD NO. 15082

L. A. Theater Next For Nellie

Nellie Lutcher, just back from an engagement at the Cave in Vancouver, will open as headliner at the L. A. Million Dollar Theater July 6 for a week. Nellie will pay for the band and the other acts herself, and take 50 per cent of all the box-office receipts.



RED SEES RED, or at least he will when his latest movie short is exhibited in flicker palaces throughout the land. This scene is from the short, which features Vocalist Karen Tedder and the Albins, dance team, along with Ingle and his zany Natural Seven.

—Universal-International Pic

Grove Wants Martin Back; Freddy Axes Band Payroll

There's no use trying to deny it, Freddy Martin's music is a "must" for the swank Cocoanut Grove.

Closes His Disc Shop

He's just been booked in again, for a Nov. 9 opening, marking the start of his umpteenth season in the palm-potted Ambassador Hotel dine and dance room.

No attraction, including the venerable Guy Lombardo, Frankie Carle or the current Miguelito Valdes, draws big-money spenders to the Grove as does Martin. It has become a home, a base, for Freddy and his tenor sax and vocal corps and fiddlers and long parade of piano-plunkers.

10 Men, Singer Quit

For several seasons, Martin even operated a large record shop in the hotel, a few feet from the Grove. But recently he padlocked the store and put it up for sale. Didn't have time to operate it wisely, he said.

As for Martin's schedule before returning home in November, his band

will open Aug. 12 at the N. Y. Waldorf (following G. Lombardo) and a three-weeker at the Strand Theater on B'way. But a lot of new sidemen are now on the road with Freddy. Last year, when he made virtually the same tour east, he paid no weekly salaries less than \$175. He came home with little to show for his 14-week marathon in the heat of midsummer. This year he is limiting virtually all sidemen to a \$125 top weekly stipend. And so 10 veteran Martinmen refused to go east.

Merv Griffin of San Francisco, baritone, replaced Stu Wade. The instrumental changes are too many to enumerate. But you can bet one thing—Freddy's band is still playing Tschai-kowsky in 4/4 tempo.

Freddie's disc shop, according to those who should know, caused him to lose \$40,000. Not because he couldn't sell records, but because he gave so many away to friends, and because so many of his "pals" congregated there to hear new releases, gossip and socialize that cash customers were ignored.

MEET THE JOCK!

JOHNNY CLARKE was 35 last May 10 and he lists 35 types of music which he features on his popular "Three Corner Club" aired every morning over New York's WINS. He likes to emphasize music for youngsters, and special albums. On his daily "Going To Town" stanza, Clarke invites a more mature audience with time signals, weather reports and a careful selection of platters. Johnny is married, has a daughter not yet 2, and hails from Kingston, O. A radio vet, he's the friendly, down to earth type who commands sizable bags of fan mail. New Yorkers like him.



Garber Held Over; Mitzi Green Coming

Mitzi Green, songstress who also is noted for her impressions of other entertainers, returns to California to play the L. A. Hotel Biltmore starting July 21. Jan Garber's music, held over several times, will still be on the stand for the Green engagement here.

PEGGY Lee

With Dave Barbour and The Brazilians
'CARAMBA! IT'S THE SAMBA'
Sweet Senorita Lee, back again in a Manana-like mood!

With Dave Barbour and His Orchestra
'BABY, DON'T BE MAD AT ME'
Appealing sentiment with slow and bright choruses.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15090

Carle Dropped By Air Sponsor But Still Busy

Frankie Carle's fling on the summer "Electric Hour" program, heard over CBS Sunday afternoons, was a brief one.

The sponsor pulled the plug on the program after six airings, and Frankie's final broadcast will come off on July 11.

Carle, however, is plenty busy these days. His band just made a Martin Block two-reel short at MCM and also did scenes for Warner's "My Dream Is Yours" starring Doris Day and Jack Carson.

On July 16, the Carle music will be heard nightly at the Casino Gardens Ballroom in Ocean Park, near Hollywood at the beach. Carle replaces Desi Arnez at the spot, owned by Tommy Dorsey, who is remaining in the east with his band for the summer months.

It is likely that the pianist will remain in California until September. He just recently wound up an engagement at the Cocoanut Grove.

'Slow' Schedule Awaits Kenton Through July

Stan Kenton's gonna' loaf this month.

Following his July 1 concert at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, the lanky pianist and arranger will retire to Balboa Beach to stretch out in the sun and contemplate the state of things and stuff in and out of the music sphere.

It won't be a vacation exactly for Stanley, for his screeching, powerful aggregation will play four consecutive weekends at the modest little Rendezvous Ballroom at Balboa, the same dancery where, just seven years ago, Stan got his start as a bandleader.

Also Playing Salt Lake City

The Balboa dates comprise July 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25. On July 26, the band goes to Las Vegas for a one-night stand, followed, on the 27th, by five days at the Capitol Theater in Salt Lake City.

On Aug. 1, Kenton's "artistry in rhythm" gang—with June Christy still as featured vocalist—moves on to Pocatello, the real potato country, for a one-night stand.

And that will constitute Kenton's schedule for the month, marking by far the lightest 30-day period he has enjoyed since he was ill last summer.

Still Partial to Concerts

Big Stan is glad to be home in California. He's still determined to play more and more formal concerts and fewer straight dance dates, and his radical ideas on what he calls "progressive" jazz are getting wilder day by day. Rumors that Stan soon will voice a pair of bagpipes with a baby rattle haven't yet been confirmed. Kenton admits he is looking for new sounds, and combinations of rhythm and melody instruments, which have never before been utilized by jazz orchestras.

Any readers got suggestions?

Caceres Bobs Up In Santa Monica Bistro

Emilio Caceres, hot fiddler who worked in New York clubs and with Benny Goodman as a guest artist several years ago, has popped up at Muni's eatery in Santa Monica, Cal., a few miles from Hollywood. With Caceres are Dale Denbley on bass and Paul Pfeiffer, pianist. Caceres' younger brother, Ernie, is also noted nationally as a sax and clarinet virtuoso.



"BRAINS" OF Artistry in Rhythm, the men who jot the notes which Stan Kenton's musicians blow so exuberantly, include Arrangers Pete Rugolo, Bob Graettinger, Kenton and Trumpeter Ken Hanna. They'll all be hanging out at Balboa Beach, Cal., through July.

—Gene Howard Photo

Yep, La Belle Niesen Is Going To The Dogs

Gertrude Niesen is Boxer-batty.

Not the pugilist type—we mean the canine species.

So strong is Gertrude's desire to breed and train Boxers that she last month announced she was settling down after more than a decade of travel. And she indicated she wasn't merely trying to romance the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce when she plunked down a stack of green stuff which gave her possession of a mammoth house, and three acres,

atop high Mulholland Drive in the Hollywood Hills.

She just finished scenes for "The Babe Ruth Story" movie which Roy Del Ruth is producing. Then she accepted a brief stint in "Anything Goes" at the Texas State Fair which opened June 28. But when that ends this month, she'll hustle back to her new house—and her Boxers—and stay put until, as she vows, "I can't stand it."

A mess of kennels have just been built. They cover nearly one of the three hilly acres Gertie paid for.



Pee Wee HUNT and his orchestra

'TWELFTH STREET RAG'

Right out of moth balls, but hypoed to the hilt!

'SOMEBODY ELSE, NOT ME'

Deep, husky vocal by PeeWee in the popular narrative technique of yesteryear.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15105



Jems in the Hollywood spotlite

RARING TO open at the L.A. Million Dollar Theater on July 7 is Nellie Lutcher, a real gone gal who finds herself home in California after a 10-month tour. Nellie's new record of "I Thought About You" is one of the summer's big-selling waffles. Below, the Dinning Sisters are pictured as they returned to Chicago last month after doing personal appearances in Hawaii. . . . In short, this was the month when the distaff side made the news.



BLONDE CHANTOOTSY June Christy provides the glamour, and most of the eye appeal to boot, on the concert dates which Stan Kenton regularly presents.

. . . Here the pert little Illinois singer autographs programs following Kenton's much-publicized

Hollywood Bowl presentation June 12th. At right, Lorry Raine works with Rudy Vallee and Organist Ivan Ditmars as she taps a soundtrack for a television movie produced by Vallee. Lorry, a Detroit lass now making good Hollywood, is the wife of Publicist Tim Gayle.

Peggy Lee And Dave Barbour Hit Chi, Atlantic City Before Crashing New York Paramount

Probably the "hottest" canary in the field right now, Peggy Lee tees off this month on a long tour, at the biggest money she's ever snagged, at the State & Lake Theater in Chicago. The original booking of July 12 has been moved up to July 2.

Accompanying Peg's confident torching will be the Dave Barbour Quartet, featuring Dave's guitar. Sometimes he goes so far as to play it without aid from the Power & Light Co.

Two Weeks in Windy City

The Chicago engagement will run for a fortnight. Then on July 18, Peg and Dave move east and into the Steel Pier, Atlantic City, for a week and then followed by another week at Virginia Beach, Va.

On Aug. 12, the Lee-Barbour com-

Those 'Sharks' Biting Again

Phony music publishers who promise amateur songwriters big results if the writers will send them money were attacked again last month by the Los Angeles Better Business Bureau.

M. J. Peters of the BBB here said the "songsharks" prey on naive amateurs. Legitimate publishers, who get songs on records and in motion pictures, never ask the composers for "small fees." In fact, Peters pointed out, they pay the composers an advance royalty to show good faith. But the "sharks" continue to bait and catch innocent suckers year after year.

bination moves to Baltimore for seven days and nights on the stage of the Hippodrome Theater. And then will come New York's Broadway, the mighty Paramount, where they'll sit tight for at least two weeks and maybe longer. The Paramount opening is skedded for Aug. 18.

Coming Home in Fall

Barbour's tasty little unit will feature no bebop trumpeters or Dixie clarinetists—it will be strictly fence-straddling music.

And they'll come home to Hollywood in the fall.



HIT PARADE sparrow Beryl Davis laps up that abundant California sun between broadcasts with Frank Sinatra, Axel Stordahl, et al. There really isn't much of a news angle to carry this shot but it shoo brightens up the pages of a mag. MGM may soon sign Beryl for films.

Gordon MACRAE

With Orchestra Conducted By Carlyle Hall

'STEPPIN' OUT WITH MY BABY'
The great Irving Berlin rhythm song from MGM's "Easter Parade"

'EVELYN' Beautiful ballad, perfect for Gordon's rich baritone

Capitol

RECORD NO. 15091

MEET THE JOCKS!



THE "SMITH BROTHERS" of Hartford's WTIC offer hilarious contrast in music as they alternately spin jazz and classical discs on their respective stanzas, "Gems of American Jazz" and "Your Box At the Opera." The hot Smith is George Malcolm-Smith, novelist and insurance expert. The longhaired Smith is Robert E., a former director of auditions for NBC and authority on opera. The station's listeners are thus assured a musical menu away from the run-of-the-mill. George has about 3,000 jazz biscuits. Robert claims a library of 10,000 operatic needlings. WTIC, at 1080 on the dial, gives them both a solid sendoff over 50,000 watts. Others please copy.

Frankie Laine Due This Month

Frankie Laine returns to the scene of his first triumph this month.

The Chicago shouter, long gone from California since he hit the gong a year or so ago with his shouting baritone pipes, will share billing at the L. A. Cocoanut Grove with Shep Fields' orchestra commencing July 13. The booking marks the first time that the room's management has hired a singer, solo, in more than 10 years.

Not too many seasons back, Laine walked up and down the streets of Hollywood as a personal manager, valiantly trying to book a fem trio, the Barries. During the war he was employed at an aircraft plant. And none of the thousands of employees ever asked him to sing.

Then Al Jarvis put him on the air.

Jarvis will be ringside the night of July 13 at the Grove. Laine may even pick up Al's check.

Matt Dennis at Beach

The Hermosa Tropics, intimate Hermosa Beach spot a few miles from Hollywood, is offering Matt Dennis, his piano and songs. Dennis has numerous Cap Records to his credit.

Top Singers Moving To West Coast

Jack Smith To Arrive In Fall

Because his future plans call for an occasional fling in big-budget motion picture musicals, Jack Smith will move his airshow from New York to Hollywood next fall.

Smith, the man with the smile in his voice, also believes he will be able to offer more and "better" guest artists on his CBS programs. A native of California, Smith was forced to go east several years ago to achieve success. Now he will be able to settle down in Southern California permanently, with his family, and make the San Fernando Valley his home.

Producer Bill Brennan also will move to the west coast to continue putting the show together five nights a week for Oxydol. Smith, who once was a California school teacher, said he had not been signed for movies "yet" but that several offers already have been received.

Arlen, Songwriter, Subs for Jack Smith

Tunecleffer Harold Arlen, aided by pianist Walter Gross, drew the replacement spot for the Jack Smith CBS show for the summer. Arlen's hits include "Stormy Weather," "Devil And The Deep Blue Sea" and dozens of others. First program was aired June 28 with Larry Berns as producer.

Langford Ankles East
Frances Langford is off for New York. She opens at the Copacabana July 15, as headliner, for four weeks. Morton Downey will follow her on Aug. 12.

Although his death went unreported in the national "trade" mags, the west coast lost a popular and highly-talented pianist last month when Clifford M. Allen was killed in a traffic accident. Allen, who teamed with singer Billie Haywood for several years in an act which nabbed top money in the nation's best theaters, had been a member of Local 767, AFM, since 1942. Burial was in New York.



Perry Como Gets Valley Residence

With his work in MGM's lavish "Words and Music" musical concluded, Perry Como last month purchased a house in the Valley just north of Hollywood and, with his wife and youngsters, will make his permanent residence here from now on out.

Como is pledged to make one film a year for the next seven years at the big Culver City flicker factory. He was under contract to 20th-Fox until a year ago, when a couple of turkeys brought him a release from his binder.

With Jack Smith also planning on settling down in the Valley soon, the number of male song stars residing within a swoon of one another now includes Andy Russell, Gordon MacRae, Como, Clark Dennis, Dick Haymes and Frank Sinatra. Bing Crosby, on the other hand, moved out of the Valley neighborhood a few seasons back and now resides with Dixie and their sons in Holmby Hills, a 15-minute drive from the Valley.

Como will do his radio shows from Hollywood in the fall, when his "Supper Club" series (in which Jo Stafford also is featured) returns to the air after the summer hiatus. Sam Kaye's band is holding forth through the hot months while Jo and Perry relax.

Willson Preps Show

Oct. 5 will be the starting date for Meredith Willson's new airshow, off the air these many months. The Iowa maestro, a famed flutist, will be heard over the ABC skein at 7:30 p.m. (EST) sponsored by Jello.

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WHO, ME???? That's the question, says Tex Williams, who finds himself in the moon pictures now after sweating out a Universal-International short which the studio has titled "Western Whoopee." Tex is at left, posed smartly with his singers, Judy Clark, Smokey Rogers and Deuce Spriggins, who appear in the movie with him. They'll all return to California from a long tour on July 7.

Vesely's Dixie Band In California Debut

And still the "old fashioned" Dixieland jazz continues to boom in Los Angeles.

Newest combo to be formed, and to bag a regular job in a city where only 3,000 of 14,000 musicians have regular employment, is one led by Trombonist Ted Vesely. It was Vesely who, before he joined the navy during the war, was heavily featured as soloist with Benny Goodman and other topflight orks.

Marl Young's Combo Bows at Downbeat

Chicago's Marl Young ork, which has been playing its first California engagement at the Downbeat Club in L. A., shapes up with Young at the keyboard, Freddie Simon on tenor, Maurice Simon, alto; Vernon Smith, trumpet; Clarence Jones, bass, and Jimmy Burns, drums. Headlining the show is Judy Carol, a one-time Lucky Millinder oriole and wife of Young.

L. A. Wax-Spinner Dies of Heart Attack

Only 37, KMPC's Mauri Cliffer died of a heart attack June 3 while driving to the studio to present his popular daily "Teen and Twenty Time" program, a record show slanted to youthful listeners. He had been in radio 14 years. The widow and two daughters survive. Cliffer came to California from St. Louis and had been extremely successful at the mike.



TONY MARTIN'S work is all cut out for him, pending his return from his current jaunt in Europe with his bride, Cyd Charisse of MGM film fame.

The singer, due back in Hollywood after appearing in London at the Palladium, is set to co-star with Yvonne DeCarlo in "Bagdad," an exotic musical which will be produced by Universal-International late this summer. In Technicolor, "Bagdad" will have Leonard Goldstein as producer. Tamara Hovey wrote the story.

In a desperate attempt to bolster business, which has sagged alarmingly in recent months, the Hollywood Palladium will offer—as a special added attraction starting July 6—Helen Forrest on the Pally bandstand doing a special act similar to the one she used on her recent engagement at Slapsy Maxie's niterie here.

Miss Forrest, a former band chirp herself, will share the billing with Buddy Rich's youthful orchestra. Rich's fractured wing is out of its sling and the New Yorker is thumping his skins with two hands again. His band, and Miss Forrest, will hold forth five weeks. Henry Busse's recent Palladium run reportedly drew the smallest box-office grosses in the Palladium's history.

Frank Sinatra is relaxed. Luckies picked up his option and he will continue as singer on "Hit Parade" with Beryl Davis for another 13-week period.

Dinah Shore signed contracts to appear in London starting Aug. 30 but a clause provides that, in the event of radio or film commitments coming up here at home, she will be free to postpone her trip across the Atlantic.

Connie Boswell, who just wound up a run at the Cave Club in Vancouver, due in Hollywood soon for personal appearances.

Chirping Andrews Sisters also left L. A. to play the N. Y. Roxy Theatre and later this summer, the London Palladium opening Aug. 1.



MADCAP MAGGIE Whiting is another of the canary crop who feels she does her best caroling shoeless, both on broadcasts and records. And here's how she appears when she gets in the mood. Now in N. Y., Margaret is expected back in H'wood in mid-July. She may head her own airshow come October.

The Ravens, Davis Ork Open at Cricket Club

Opening on June 2 at the Cricket Club, Los Angeles niterie, on the same bill with the singing, swinging Ravens (vocal quartet) was the orchestra of Eddie Davis.

Both the Ravens and the Davis ork are making their bow to California audiences at the Cricket. Eddie plays tenor sax. Featured as thrush with his crew is Ju Lee Webb, also new to coast niterie habitues.



THE SCHEDULED return of Diz Gillespie and his band to Los Angeles, in late July, revives memories of the personable little trumpeter's first west coast engagement as a bandleader some three years ago, when Stacy." Jess was a standout 88'er with Goodman, the Crosby band and the old Chicago gang a few years back—and he still holds his own with any of the poll-winning youngsters of this era.

Red Ingle and his Natural Seven drew another holdover at the Casbah Club in L. A.

Billy Berg, in whose niterie Gillespie was appearing nightly, recalls that he signed the band when a couple of mustached musicians showed him rave reviews about Gillespie in New York music monthly. But night after night, once the Diz and Yardbird Parker got on Berg's bandstand, Californians stayed away in flocks. Berg bought airtime, newspaper advertising and slapped two-sheets all over Los Angeles.

Finally, after five nights when nothing happened, Berg paid off the Gillespie-Parker band and they hurried back to N.Y. Since then, Diz has toured in Europe, enlarged his band and changed managers.

And everybody is wondering what will happen this trip.

Best reading of the month—David Hall's massive new international edition of "The Record Book" just published by Oliver Durrell, Inc., New York. It's strictly for those who collect, or appreciate, classical discs. And in its 1,827 pages one finds the most comprehensive, and sensibly enumerated, data on 780 composers and their works on wax that has ever been assembled in type. The tome is up-to-date, surprisingly objective in evaluating both instrumental and vocal performances and well worth the \$7.50 tag the publisher asks.

In short, it's the "Hot Discography" of the Longhairs.

Jess Stacy is pounding the keys at the Haig, small after-dark spot on Wilshire in L.A. As a single, too. His wife, Singer Lee Wiley, is doing Little Theater work here under the name of "Lee out."

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KING COLE TRIO: Ciro's starting July 16.

STAN KENTON: Balboa Beach weekends only thru July.

NELLIE LUTCHER: Million Dollar Theater week July 6-12.

DESI ARNEZ: Casino Gardens.

LES BROWN: Palladium.

BUDDY RICH: Palladium starting July 6.

JAN GARNER: Hotel Biltmore.

PHIL OHMAN: Ciro's.

MIGUELITO VALDES: Cocoanut Grove.

HERB JEFFRIES: Red Feather.

CEELLE BURKE: Breneman's.

HERB WILKENS: Red Feather.

HELEN FORREST: Palladium.

BOBBY RAMOS: Breneman's.

ERNIE FELICE: Hotel Ambassador.

FRANKIE LAINE and Shep Fields' Ork: Cocoanut Grove starting July 13.

PETE DAILY: Hangover Club.

WINGY MANONE: Eddie's Oasis.

TED VESELY: Beverly Cavern.

EMIL BAFFA: Florentine Gardens.

TEX WILLIAMS: Riverside Rancho starting July 7.

DICK STABILE: Slapsy Maxie's.

ABBE BROWNE: Charley Foy's.

FRANKIE CARLE: Casino Gardens starting July 16.

Minneapolis Next For Clark Dennis

Clark Dennis flies east, from Hollywood, to open on July 2 at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis. There, in the hostelry's Flame room, Dennis will sing his hit etching of "Jealousy" and other plattered pops identified with his virile tenor voice.

Last month, Dennis doubled between the Olympic Theater in Miami Beach and the Copacabana Lounge, where he subbed disc-whirler. A few nights later, the Copacabana was destroyed by fire. It will have to be rebuilt for the season next winter.

CAPITAL NEWS Tex Ritter, Wesley Tuttle Chase All Over The East; Tex Williams Home July 7

By LEE GILLETTE

Two of America's top cowboy recording artists, Tex Ritter and Wesley Tuttle, have been playing to packed houses in Pennsylvania theaters and parks—but not on the same bill. Ritter swears that Pennsy folk have always been rabid supporters of western music, but that interest and enthusiasm in this music is now at an all-time high.

Ritter and Tuttle, come to think of it, both have new Capitol discs out this month. Wesley pairs "You Can't Fool My Broken Heart" with "Mom Understands." Ritter, perhaps not so sentimental this trip, contributes "Rock And Rye" and "My Heart's As Cold As An Empty Jug." A one-track mind, that Ritter . . .

News Of Williams, Hosed

And still another Tex—but just another cowpoke—has a potential hit etching in "Who, Me?" Tex Williams, of course. The Williams Western Caravan returns to the west coast on July 7 after an extended tour of the n'th and Middlewestern states. Tex will play at the Riverside Rancho through July.

The Roy Hosed Trio, who Cap record of "Cocaine Blues" and "Fishtail Boogie" is stirring up talk, are still packing them in at the College Inn in San Diego. A tour is in the offing.

Copas Comes Up Fast

Cowboy Copas, whose fame is getting greater and greater all the time, every day, all over the nation, plans a coast jaunt this summer, and maybe a picture deal. His WSM "Grand Ole Opry" airings are hotter than a summer day in Tennessee. Copas is a boy to keep your eye on . . . he's on the way, but good.

Mud Barry, Tex Williams' fine tub-



RIVAL TOURING artists Wesley Tuttle and Tex Ritter needle each other during their trek across Pennsylvania. They bucked one another. And both did boffo business. Tuttle got his start four years ago playing guitar on Ritter's records for Capitol.

thumper, has left the band. The Caravan will miss his beat.

Foy Willing and Riders of the Purple Sage, who have been working in all Monte Hale pictures at Republic, have been given spot in Roy Rogers' starrer, "Grand Canyon Trail" which rolled June 9.

Josh White Signed For Columbia Movie

Columbia Pictures last month concluded negotiations with Josh White, blues singer and guitarist, enabling White to appear in "The Walking Hills." The film stars Ella Raines and Randolph Scott. White will portray a guitar-plucking chanter of American folk music, just as he does in real life.

Thornhill, Cavanaugh En Route to Hawaii

Claude Thornhill passed through Los Angeles last month en route to Honolulu, where he will vacation for three months before returning to New York, in September, to reorganize his band. Also passing through California, on the way to the land of the leis, was Page Cavanaugh. His Trio will work a Honolulu location this month.

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★ Mercer Feted at Grove ★



JOHNNY MERCER, long a high-ranking member of ASCAP, was feted by Frankie Carle last month at the L. A. Cocoanut Grove. Hundreds of show biz folk turned out in tribute to the Mercer talent—and personality. Shown are Carle, Peggy Lee, Bill Goodwin,

Dave Barbour and Mercer himself. Scenes like this always happen when Peggy comes around. She and Hubby Barbour were set to open at Chicago's State & Lake Theater July 2 on the first leg of their long eastern theater trek.